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# THE CASE

Of the Petitioners, *William Strode* and *John Speke*, Esquires.

**I**N the Burrough of *Iwelchester*, in *Somerset*, it hath been the Custom and Usage, for only all House-keepers, to give Votes for choosing Members to serve in Parliament.

*Joseph Winter*, a Barber, being Baliff on the Election Day, did partially, contrary to the Custom, when he had Polled himself, and called for all that were Polled for Sir *Edward Wyndham*, Baronet, and Mr. *William Helyar*, admitted of several Non-residents, Tablers and Lodgers, amongst them, whereas they were all severally excepted against, by some of the Inhabitants, to have no right; alledging, that they did not Rent Houses, and could not be called House-keepers. Whereupon, the Petitioners Clerk marked the Names of fifteen of that Poll he took when they were thus objected against: So afterwards, Mr. *Strode* and Mr. *Spekes*, Voters, waiting in the Hall, at length were allowed to Poll for Mr. *Strode*. There were fifty two unquestionable House-keepers, whereof fifty were also for Mr. *Speke*; but then, at last, some real House-keepers, who offered to Poll for the Petitioners, were refused.

There are but fifty eight, on the Poll, for Sir *Edward Wyndham* and Mr. *Helyar*, whereof not above forty three are House-keepers, ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Neither have they there any Freemen, or other Electors, then House-keepers, who are not effectively one hundred in all the Burrough; so that the Petitioners will plainly prove, a good Majority of the said House-keepers, as they now stand on the Poll, without adding those who were refused them; and consequently, the Petitioners are duely chosen.

As for the Charter, it gives none any right to choose Members for Parliament, it only makes a Corporation consisting of a Baliff and twelve Capital Burgeses; and by the expresse words of the said Charter, the Baliff, and said Capital Burgeses, upon Death or removal of any, they are required to go to a new choice of some Inhabitant to be a Capital Burgess: Altho', contrary hereunto, the Baliff and Burgeses of late years, have Elected four Gentlemen, Non-residents, and did allow one of those Gentlemen to be their Baliff, for some years successively, whilst living at least three miles then out of their Burrough.

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